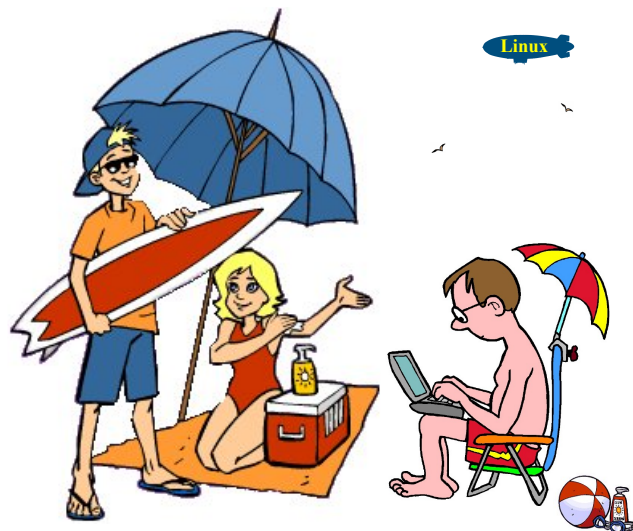


Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey NEWS

Volume 35, Number 07

July 2010

ACGNJ HAS SUMMER ACTIVITIES!



While some of our meetings (about a third of the club) shut down for the summer, the rest *don't*. Seven of our Special Interest Groups have meetings scheduled. When you're not "catching some rays" or "riding the wild surf", maybe you might consider attending a few of them. Have you been curious about one or more of the SIGs below, but just haven't found the time to "drop in"? This could be the opportunity you've been looking for. Then, there's our annual Planning Meeting in August. In many ways, this can be considered our most important public meeting of the year. You want to affect the direction the club is taking? That's where it happens.

Have a great summer, full of fun, adventure and relaxation; and computer stuff *too*!

REMEMBER THESE DATES:

July 11, 2010 is the 16th anniversary of the death of Dr. Gary Arlen Kildall. He was the *real* "Father of the Personal Computer Revolution", the true progenitor of all things now credited to another. (See *Lest We Forget* in the September 2007 ACGNJ News).

July 30, 2010 is the 11th Annual System Administrator Appreciation Day. Send your Sysadmin a bouquet of flowers and maybe some candy. (Unless you *want* your network connection to go down at the worst possible moment). For further details, go to:

<http://www.sysadminday.com>

ACGNJ Summer Schedule:

July 5, August 2 (Monday) Lunics (Linux/UNIX) 8:00 PM.
July 8, August 12 (Thurs) Computerized Investing 8:00 PM.
July 9, August 13 (Friday) NJ Gamers 6:00 PM.
July 13 (Tuesday) Java 7:30 PM.
July 14, August 11 (Wednesday) WebDev 7:00 PM.
July 19, August 16 (Monday) Firefox 8:00 PM.
July 22, August 26 (Thursday) Hardware SIG 8:00 PM.
August 17 (Tuesday) Planning Meeting 7:00 PM.

Please note: By its very nature, a summer schedule is even shakier than usual. Before you leave, please check the club web site (www.acgnj.org) for last-minute cancellations.

(For further details, see *Brief SIG Information* on page 3).

Bug Alert!

Please test the **blue** live links on this page, **and** on pages 3 and 4. E-mail me at bob.hawes@acgnj.org **only** if they *don't* work, and tell me which PDF reader and what Operating System your computer is using.

Thank you.



<http://www.acgnj.org>

Founded 1975

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Investing	Jim Cooper	
Java	Michael Redlich	(908) 537-4915
Layman's Forum	Matthew Skoda	(908) 359-8842
LUNICS	Andreas Meyer	
NJ Gamers	Gregg McCarthy	
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ACGNJ News is published by the Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey, Incorporated (ACGNJ), PO Box 135, Scotch Plains NJ 07076. ACGNJ, a non-profit educational corporation, is an independent computer user group. Opinions expressed herein are solely those of the individual author or editor. This publication is **Copyright © 2010 by the Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey, Inc., all rights reserved. Permission to reprint with appropriate credit is hereby given to non-profit organizations.**

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Tips for reviewers: Why does anyone need it? Why did you like it or hate it? Ease (or difficulty) of installation, learning and use. Would you pay for it?

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Publication Exchange: Other computer user groups are invited to send a subscription to ACGNJ at the address below. We will respond in kind.

Address Changes should be e-mailed to membership@acgnj.org or sent to ACGNJ at the address below.

Membership: Regular (now includes *all* family members residing at the same address): 1 year \$25, 2 years \$40, 3 years \$55. Student: 1 year \$20. Senior Citizen (over 65): 1 year \$20, 3 years \$45. Send name, address and payment to ACGNJ, PO Box 135, Scotch Plains NJ 07076.

Typographic Note: This ACGNJ News was produced using Scribus 1.3.3.13. Font families used are Times New Roman (TT) for body text, Arial (TT) for headlines.

E-Mail Addresses

Here are the e-mail addresses of ACGNJ Officers, Directors and SIG Leaders (and the Newsletter Editor). This list is also at (<http://www.acgnj.org/officers.html>).

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About This Issue

I really like the desktop publisher that I'm using to create this newsletter (Scribus, running under Ubuntu Linux); but in the year since my July 2009 newsletter, they *still* haven't completely fixed the bugs in their links. (I'm not going to say anything further about specific problems here, because I need you to send me fresh, unbiased descriptions of any difficulties that you might encounter). I *will* say that I'm extremely disappointed. So disappointed that I actually considered switching back to Windows (though only temporarily). Therefore, I made an experimental Windows 98 SE system, and installed the club's twelve year old copy of Ventura Publisher 8 onto it. (That program *hasn't* been installed on the official club computer for a *long* time).

Before I discovered Scribus, it had been about ten years since I last used my good old DOS desktop publishing software; but I picked up Scribus really

fast, because it was very similar to my old programs except for two things: Headers and Footers. Over the years, I had three DOS desktop publishers, each sporting a different name but obviously (to me, at least) descended from the same common ancestor; and they all had Header and Footer Tools. Scribus *didn't*. Instead, Headers and Footers were created on "Master Pages", which were then "applied" to the individual pages of each project. When I first opened up Ventura, the *only* familiar things I saw were Header and Footer Tools. Everything else was different. I might have persevered, though, except for one further detail: Ventura 8 *can't* create its output directly as a PDF file. First, you create a postscript file. Then, you have to use Adobe Acrobat Distiller to turn that file into a PDF file. Thus, taken as a whole, there was just too much of a "learning curve" for me to use Ventura to make this issue. Maybe in August.

Brief SIG Information

(see www.acgnj.org for additional details)

Computerized Investing features presentations and instructions on learning, selecting and using various charting and technical analysis software. The object, of course, being profitable investment. Meetings are generally "free flow", following whatever questions come from the group. Primary focus is on Telechart and Tradestation; but users of other software and platforms are very welcome.

Jim Cooper (jim@thecoopers.org).

Firefox is an open forum for all Firefox and Mozilla techniques and technologies, to encourage the study and development of web sites of all kinds.

David McRitchie (firefox@acgnj.org).

Hardware, our newest Special Interest Group, is dedicated to repairing, refurbishing and/or recycling older computers. It celebrated its First Anniversary in May of 2010.

Mike Reagan (hardware@acgnj.org).

Java covers beginner, intermediate, and advanced level Java programming. Primary focus is on developing useful/practical applets and applications. The July meeting is reserved for annual user group planning, and the August meeting is reserved for special projects. However, it's uncertain at this time if we'll be able to hold an August meeting this year.

Mike Redlich (mike@redlich.net).

Lunics is a group for those who share an interest in Linux or other Unix-like operating systems (such as BSD and Solaris). Recent meetings have followed a Random Access format.

Andreas Meyer (lunics@acgnj.org).

NJ Gamers sessions go for *eighteen* hours, with a \$5.00 admission charge. Bring-Your-Own-Computer, Bring-Your-Own-Food, and Bring-Your-Own-Chair (if you want to be comfortable).

Gregg McCarthy (greggmajestic@gmail.com).

WebDev is an open forum to encourage the study of Website Development techniques and technologies. All available website development platforms will be considered and demo sites will be created using mostly open source code. Topics to be addressed will include content management systems (CMSs), Web 2.0 and the Semantic Web.

Evan Williams (ewilliams@collaboron.com).

Planning Meeting: This year is especially important. The club's future, indeed its very survival, could be in the balance. Plus, it's a dinner meeting, so there'll be **Free Food!** But there's a catch. If you attend, you have to bring two possible meeting topics with you. For further information, and instructions on how to RSVP, see:

<http://www.acgnj.org/pm/pma.html>

Firefox Usage Notes

David McRitchie (firefox@acgnj.org)

Firefox gets its robustness not from what is installed when you install Firefox itself (from mozilla.com), but from the extensions that you add in later.

I like to work with a lot of tabs open in the window, so I have changed a number of tab related options, and have added a number of tab related extensions and styles.

One annoyance that many users faced is that Firefox tabs were changed in Firefox 3.6 to be more like those in the Opera web browser by opening to the right of the parent tab instead of at the end of the tabs bar. To disable this feature enter “about:config” into the location bar and then filter on “insertRelatedAfterCurrent”, which will probably show nothing, so right-click under “preferences” and choose “New -> Boolean”, then for the name enter “browser.tabs.insertRelatedAfterCurrent” (without any spaces) then set the value to “False”. (The current version of Firefox is 3.6.6).

You can change Firefox styling (chrome) with changes to “userChrome.css”, but an easier way is with the “Stylish” extension. A style to add color below the tab's title is “Tab Color Underscoring active/read/unread (Fx3.6)”. It colors the bottom border of a tab with RED for active tab, BLUE for a normal tab, GREEN for a still unread tab, and MAGENTA for loading/reloading tab activity. In other words distinguishes tabs as active tab, viewed tab, or unviewed tab:

(<http://userstyles.org/styles/24728>).

One of my web pages, “Tabbed Browsing in Firefox”, has additional suggestions for tab usage and some help for debugging link target usages:

(<http://www.mvps.org/dmccritchie/firefox/tabs.htm>).

One of the extensions I've recently started using is “Multiple Tab Handler” which you can find at “addons” (<http://addons.mozilla.com>). It allows you to make selections among tabs, and to close selected

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tabs, close tabs to the left or right of the active tab, and also adds a “close all tabs” to the tab context menu. You will also find this extension useful to add tab selections of titles and url names in formatting of your choice to the clipboard for use in HTML files, wikis, blogs, and email. For single tab use where you can include a selection of web page text, the “Copy All Urls” extension is one of my favorites.

One of the most frequent problems users have with Firefox is installing extensions that are not compatible with each other or even with Firefox, so a good place to start is with “Problematic extensions”, where you will find suggestions for making changes to modify options, or to disable a conflicting extension, so that you can use what is most important to you:

(http://kb.mozillazine.org/Problematic_extensions).

I have an introductory page for new Firefox users:

(http://www.mvps.org/dmccritchie/firefox/lessons/intro/fx3_intro.htm).

(David McRitchie runs the ACGNJ Firefox Special Interest Group, on the third Monday of each month).

35th Anniversary Newsletter CD Now On Sale



Beta .09 Release.

\$8.00, including postage.

(\$7.00 if you pick up a copy at a meeting).

Get yours today!

Back Issues Still Needed

Our collection remains incomplete. Below is a list of missing newsletters. Anyone who lends us one of these (or supplies a good clear copy) will receive the next CD as our thanks.

1975: #2 and #3 (dates uncertain).

1976: January.

1984: August.

1985: June, July, August, September.

December 2009 Award Certificates

Robert D. Hawes (bob.hawes@acgnj.org)

At our December 4th, 2009 Main Meeting, the ACGNJ Board of Directors presented framed award certificates to eight club office holders, honoring their “Long Term Meritorious Service”. The previous year, the Board had presented similar framed award certificates honoring “Continuous Meritorious Service”. Note the difference. For that first round of awards, the criteria had been set “tight”. Candidates had to have put in more than ten years of **continuous** service as a club functionary (Officer, Director, Sig Leader, Committee Chairman, etc.), and they had to **still** be serving on the day that the awards were presented. Seven people qualified in 2008: Bruce Arnold, Barbara DeGroot, Bill Farrell, Malthi Masurekar, Arnold Milstein, John Raff, and Matt Skoda. For further details, including quarter size reproductions, see the *Award Certificates* article in our *End-of-Year 2008 Supplement*:

(http://www.tcf-nj.org/acgnj/nl/2000_09/2008_10S.PDF).

For our second round of awards, the criteria were “loosened” a bit. A cumulative total of at least ten years in office was still required, but it **didn't** have to

be continuous. Also, they didn't have to still be serving in 2009. This time, eight people qualified. Six (Mike Barlow, Jim Ditaranto, Sheldon Koepf, Andreas Meyer, Scott Vincent, and Frank Warren) received “Decade-Plus” awards (as had **all** of the previous recipients); and two (Bruce Arnold and John Raff) received repeat awards. Technically, since each of the previous honorees had continued to serve throughout 2009, **all seven** of them should have been eligible for repeat awards; but that would have been too redundant. Only Bruce and John qualified for **higher** awards; but before we get to them, I need to reproduce some more information from that original *Award Certificates* article.

After I created each award (using Scribus, of course), I had to save it as a graphical output file. Then, to insert those files into this newsletter, I had to re-import them into quarter size “image frames” that I placed on my pages in the appropriate spots. (Plus, I surrounded each one with a phony black box, to simulate the picture frames that enclosed the printed certificates in reality). For bitmap output,

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Scribus can create eight image file types: BMP, JPG, PBM, PGM, PNG, PPM, XBM and XPM. For bitmap **input**, Scribus can read six image file types: GIF, JPG, PNG, PSD, TIF and XPM. For **non-bitmap** input **and** output, Scribus supports three formats: EPS, PDF and SVG; but PBM (Portable BitMap), PGM (Portable GreyMap) and XBM (XBitMap) **can't** do colors, and SVG (Scalable Vector Graphics) is just “not ready for prime time”. So I could only use BMP, EPS, JPG, PDF, PNG, PPM and XPM for output, with only EPS, JPG, PDF, PNG and XPM being usable for input as well. However, I **could** use the GIMP image editor to convert BMP and PPM output files into GIF, PSD and/or TIF input files. Thus, I was able to use each format at least once in this article. (I'll give a **brief** description of each file type as we run into them below. For additional information, please refer to the aforementioned *Award Certificates* article).

Anyway, Bruce (Figure 1), having now been a SIG leader for **twenty** years, received a “Double-Decade” award. (Figure 1 was both exported **and** imported as



Figure 1

December 2009 Award Certificates, *continued*

a 655 KB PDF (Portable Document Format) file). John's case was more complicated. When I was researching John's club service in 2008 (by reading the "Officers, Directors and Leaders" pages in our old newsletters), I discovered that he had been Facilities Chairman since 1995, Webmaster since 1998, and PC Symposium/Window Pains SIG leader since 1998. (Despite what you might assume by doing quick mental math, the period from the beginning of 1998 to the end of 2008 is eleven years, *not* ten). I also noted that he had been elected to the Board as either Director or Vice-President since 1995; but somehow I concluded that his elected offices were *not* continuous. Later, I decided that I'd made a mistake, and that John *should* have been credited with performing *four* simultaneous club functions. However, this year it *didn't matter* whether I'd been right or wrong before. According to the 2009 standards, John's elected offices qualified either way. So John (Figure 2) was given the "Quadruple Whammy" award that he so richly deserved. (Figure 2 was both exported and imported as a 358 KB EPS (Encapsulated PostScript) file).

Of the new honorees, only Andreas Meyer (Figure 3) was still currently serving; and only he and Frank Warren (Figure 4) were still regularly attending



Figure 2



Figure 3

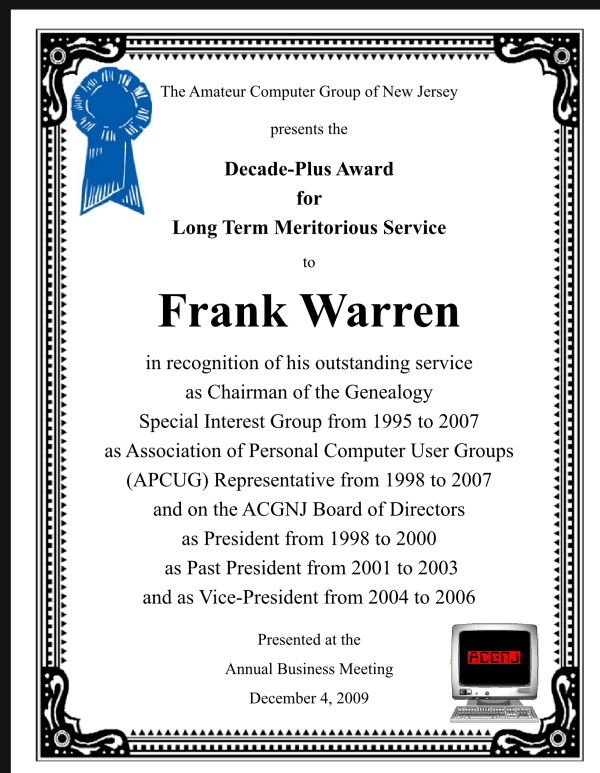


Figure 4

ACGNJ meetings. So Mike Barlow (Figure 5), Jim Ditaranto (Figure 6), Sheldon Koepf (Figure 7) and Scott Vincent (Figure 8) would have to wait for their awards to be delivered remotely. Figure 3 is a 5.6 MB PNG



Figure 5



Figure 6

(Portable Network Graphics) file. Figure 4 is a 1.0 MB JPG (or JPEG, for Joint Photographic Experts Group) file. Figure 5 is a 5.6 MB XPM (XPixMap, from the X Windows System) file. Figure 6 is a 170 KB GIF



Figure 7



Figure 8

(Graphics Interchange Format) file, which was converted by the GIMP from a Scribus-produced 5.5 MB BMP (BitMaP) file. Figure 7 is a 1.8 MB PSD (PhotoShop Document) file, converted by the GIMP from a Scribus-produced 5.5 MB PPM (Portable PixMap) file; and Figure 8 is a 5.5 MB TIF (or TIFF, for Tagged Image File Format) file, converted by the GIMP from a Scribus-produced 5.5 MB BMP file.

You shouldn't be surprised that I also pandered to my own ego, awarding a certificate to myself (Figure 9) as well. Please note that I did *not* usurp the good name of ACGNJ for this certificate. I made up my own phony organization instead. Figure 9 is a 4.7 MB TIF file, converted by the GIMP from a Scribus-produced 5.5 MB PPM file.

Even if I do say so myself, they *all* look good. They're clear, crisp and un-blurry, even at 400% magnification. If I absolutely *had* to pick a nit, I'd say that Figure 6 has a faint yellowish cast to it. As with Arnold Milstein's image in the original *Award Certificates* article, Figure 6 *is* actually the smallest of all the files reproduced here. It's in GIF format, which *only* supports 256 colors; but if it wasn't sitting right next to another image in a more colorful format, I doubt that such a small difference would even be noticeable. I can think of many situations where that size advantage would greatly outweigh this very minuscule color imperfection.

There are, in fact, a few more certificates that I made recently, celebrating other achievements; but they'll have to wait until next month. See you then.

**HAVE A
WONDERFUL
SUMMER!**

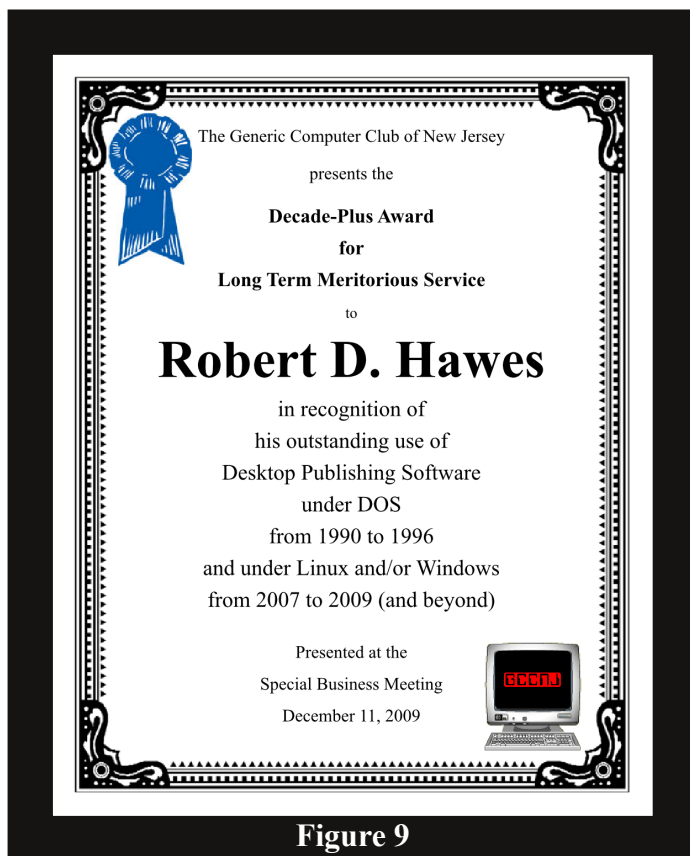


Figure 9



At TCF, Bob Hawes finally presented Mike Barlow with his award. (Both of them, apparently, having also traveled back in time to 1998).